

Clean Version of the Claims

Please replace claims 1, 11, 22 and 29 with the following:

SA
[Amended] A system for transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring on a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring which has a primary communication signal, wherein the secondary communication signal has secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and the primary communication signal has primary overhead including secondary section overhead, the system comprising:

A1
a first adapter assembly adapted to receive the secondary communication signal from the secondary SONET ring and the primary communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to combine the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead, to form a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, to combine the secondary payload with the primary payload to form a transport payload and to combine the transport overhead with the transport payload to form a transport communication signal for transport across a communications path of the primary SONET ring; and

a second adapter assembly adapted to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, and to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create the second secondary communication signal for transport to the secondary SONET ring.

A2
11. [Amended] An apparatus for transporting a transport communication signal from a synchronous primary SONET ring to a secondary primary SONET ring, the transport communication signal having a transport overhead containing a secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and a transport payload containing a secondary payload wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with of a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the apparatus comprising:

an adapter assembly adapted to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal and to transmit secondary communication signal to the secondary primary SONET ring.

A3
12. [Amended] A method of preparing a communication signal in a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring for transport to a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the communication signal having a transport overhead including a secondary overhead and a transport payload including a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead and wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the method comprising:

removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead;

removing the secondary payload from the transport payload; and

combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal.

Sub
29 [Amended] A method of transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring across a communications path of a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the secondary communication signal including a secondary overhead and a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead, comprising the steps of:

A4
receiving a secondary communications signal into an first adapter assembly communicably connected to the primary SONET ring and the secondary SONET ring, and, in the first adapter assembly, combining the secondary overhead into the unused space of the primary overhead, forming a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, and combining the secondary payload with a primary communications signal payload to form a transport payload, and combining the transport payload and the transport overhead to form a transport communication signal;

transporting the transport communication signal across a communications path through the primary SONET ring to a second adapter assembly communicably connected with the secondary SONET ring and the primary SONET ring; and

in the second adapter assembly, removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead, removing the secondary payload from the transport payload and combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to recreate the secondary communication signal.

Marked-up Version of the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 11, 22 and 29 as follows:

1. [Amended] A system for transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring on a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring which has a primary communication signal, wherein the secondary communication signal has secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and the primary communication signal has primary overhead including secondary section overhead, the system comprising:

a first adapter assembly adapted to receive the secondary communication signal from the secondary SONET ring and the primary communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to combine the secondary overhead [with the primary overhead to form a transport overhead wherein the secondary section overhead is combined] into the unused space of the primary overhead, to form a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, to combine the secondary payload with the primary payload to form a transport payload and to combine the transport overhead with the transport payload to form a transport communication signal for transport across a communications path of the primary SONET ring; and

a second adapter assembly adapted to receive the transport communication signal from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, and to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create the second secondary communication signal for transport to the secondary SONET ring.

11. [Amended] An apparatus for transporting a transport communication signal from a synchronous primary SONET ring to a secondary primary SONET ring, the transport communication signal having a transport overhead containing a secondary overhead including secondary section overhead and a transport payload containing a secondary payload wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with of a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the apparatus comprising:

an adapter assembly adapted to receive the transport communication signal, from the primary SONET ring, to remove the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, to remove the secondary payload from the transport payload, to combine the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal and to transmit secondary communication signal to the secondary primary SONET ring.

22. [Amended] A method of preparing a communication signal in a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring for transport to a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the communication signal having a transport overhead including a secondary overhead and a transport payload including a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead and wherein the transport overhead was formed by combining the secondary overhead with a primary overhead wherein the secondary section overhead was combined into the unused space of the primary overhead, the method comprising:

removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead;

removing the secondary payload from the transport payload; and

combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to create a secondary communication signal.

29. [Amended] A method of transporting a secondary communication signal from a secondary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring across a communications path of a primary synchronous optical network (SONET) ring, the secondary communication signal including a secondary overhead and a secondary payload wherein the secondary overhead includes a secondary section overhead, comprising the steps of:

receiving a secondary communications signal into an first adapter assembly communicably connected to the primary SONET ring and the secondary SONET ring, and, in the first adapter assembly, combining the secondary overhead [with a primary communications signal overhead to form a transport overhead wherein the secondary section overhead is combined] into the unused space of the primary overhead, forming a transport overhead from the secondary overhead and the primary overhead wherein the transport overhead includes the secondary section overhead, and combining the secondary payload with a primary communications signal payload to form a transport payload, and combining the transport payload and the transport overhead to form a transport communication signal;

transporting the transport communication signal across a communications path through the primary SONET ring to a second adapter assembly communicably connected with the secondary SONET ring and the primary SONET ring; and

in the second adapter assembly, removing the secondary overhead from the transport overhead, removing the secondary payload from the transport payload and combining the secondary overhead with the secondary payload to recreate the secondary communication signal.